



HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 13, 2008

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Firefighters to Canvass Areas of Major Fires

WHAT: The Houston Fire Department will talk with citizens and distribute safety information during two canvassing efforts in the area of recent major fire incidents.

WHEN/WHERE: Today, March 13, 2008

- 12 pm - Northbrook Village Townhomes at 10839 Sandpiper
- 1:30 pm - Spring Forest Apartments at 6000 Bissonnet

DETAILS: In an effort to prevent such tragedies and to encourage fire safety, members of the Houston Fire Department will be distributing safety information and talking with residents at the townhomes in which a woman died this morning. Firefighters will also be canvassing the apartment complex which suffered from a 2-alarm fire yesterday, March 12. HFD Arson Investigators are still investigating the cause of both fires.

When it comes to smoke alarms, silence can be deadly. National and local statistics reflect this deadly silence with more than 50 percent of all residential fatal fires not having a working smoke alarm.

Working smoke alarms nearly cut in half the risk of dying in a home fire. Changing smoke detector batteries at least once a year is one of the simplest, most effective ways to reduce these tragic deaths and injuries due to no smoke alarm or a non—working smoke alarm.

Non-working smoke detectors rob residents of the protective benefits home fire safety devices were designed to provide. The most commonly cited cause of nonworking smoke detectors is worn or missing batteries.